Numb. 18.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

Igneus est Ollis Vigor, & Cœlestis Origo Seminibus.——— VIR.

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

FRIDAY, *December* 15. 1727.

THO' I have ever professed myself to be of a very gallant and amorous Complexion; yet it may not be thought very consistent with the other Parts of my Character to be writ on the Subject of Love at Eighty-two. I must therefore inform my Readers, that the chief of the Materials, as well as the Design itself, belong to one of my ingenious Correspondents; and that I am myself very little more than the Publisher in the greatest part of what follows.

THE most fatal Miscarriages in Life, we are generally owing to our mistaken Notions of its Duties and Obligations. We are all desirous to make ourselves happy; and would all willingly form our Actions so as to have the Esteem and Approbation of Others. This is our common End, but, alas! where one hits upon the right Path which will lead him to it, how many are misled aside far out of the Way by their false Judgment of Things, and so are lost and bewilder'd in the Labyrinth of Error and Misery? Into what Straits and Inconveniences do several Men daily run, by acting upon a false Notion of Generosity: Whilst others often throw themselves headlong into the most fatal and guilty Circumstances by pursuing as false a Principle of Honour. It would be therefore a Work very useful, and not unsuitable to a Paper of this Nature, to endeavour to set Men right in their Ideas of Things. I shall begin with Love, which is acknowledged to be one of our best and noblest Passions. It has perhaps for that very reason have suffered more by being misrepresented; whilst as no one would be willing to be thought insensible of it, even those who have an Heart no ways turned to it, have nevertheless been extremely fond of seeming to be affected with it. The real Nature therefore of this glorious Passion is almost quite lost and confounded, by the numberless false Ideas which have been formed of it; and tho' it is pretended to by all, it is yet very seldom really felt, or even truly understood by any. A neighbouring Nation are extremely loose in their Notions of it, and oblige it to signify every Motion of the Mind that is above Indifference. I do not ground my Assertion, from the airy Talk of a gay Set of Men who call themselves Lovers; but shall fix it on a more solid Foundation, even the serious Sentiments of the celebrated Monsieur *Huett*, who very gravely gives the following Account of it.

"LOVE, says he, is a Distemper of "the Body, and may be cured by Physick. "He goes on to prove this, by affirming, "that it lies in the Blood and Spirits, which "are fired and raised in an extraordinary "manner; in short, that it is a real Fever, "and is to be treated and cured as such. "He prescribes sweating plentifully, and "losing great Quantities of Blood, as certain Remedies for this Distemper; and "thinks he has sufficiently established his "Assertion, by producing two Examples "of Cures perform'd in this manner, as a "Confirmation of it.

"ONE is of a Person of the first Rank, "who was passionately fond of a young Lady of great Merit; but having a Charge "in the Army, was obliged to quit the "Object of his Wishes for some time. Their "Se-

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" Separation was relieved by a punctual " Correſpondence till the Cloſe of the Cam- " paign ; he then fell dangerouſly ill ; the " moſt efficacious means were uſed for the " ſaving of his Life, and with Succeſs. He " recovered indeed his Health, but loſt his " Paſſion for the Lady.

" THE other Inſtance is one of the Au- " thor's intimate Friends, who had long " endured the Torment of a troubleſome " Paſſion ; and was cured of it by the " means that were employ'd for removing " a violent Fever. Upon his Recovery, he " endeavoured to re-aſſume his former Gal- " lantry, and approach his Charmer with " his uſual Profeſſions of Love ; but was " ſurprized to find none of thoſe violent " Inclinations for her, which warmed him " before his Sickneſs, whilſt all his wonted " Vivacity and Softneſs were now dege- " nerated into Coldneſs and Indifference."

THIS I think is a ſufficient Demonſtration how little this Glorious Paſſion is underſtood ; when a Biſhop of the Church, who has himſelf wrote a Treatiſe of the Weakneſs of Human Underſtanding, has, notwithſtanding all this, debaſed and abuſed it by ſuch groſs and falſe Miſrepreſentations, whilſt he pretends to give the World a correct Account of the Nature of it. This is forming much ſuch a juſt Idea of Love, as a late eminent Phyſician of our own did of Courage; when he ſaid he could make any Man a Coward, if he had the dieting of him for ſix Weeks. As the one miſtakes the tumultuous Paſſion of Rage, for the calm Intrepidity which is ever the Mark of true Valour: So the other has confounded the moſt generous Paſſion of the Mind, with a Principle of the groſſeſt Nature, and which is much fitter to be confined to the brutal Herd, than ever to be admitted into the Breaſt of a rational Creature. But ſure there is a wide Diſtinction between Heat of Blood, and the glowing Ardour of a well-regulated Affection ; between the tumultuary Starts and Sallies of the animal Spirits, and the clear calm Flame of Love.

I am afraid it is ſomething owing to Monſieur *Huett's* way of Thinking, that the Month of *May* has been looked upon to be ſo propitious to Love in our *Engliſh* Climate ; and that our Countrymen are generally not much juſter in their Notions of it than their airy Neighbours. But true Love will ſubſiſt as well in *December* as in *May*, and will warm the Breaſt in the remoteſt Corners of the North.

IT is owing to our acting on theſe falſe Principles, that this glorious Paſſion, which ſeems peculiarly formed to make us happy, is yet, amongſt the common Herd of its miſtaken Votaries, found to be much more fruitful of Pain and Uneaſineſs than Delight and Pleaſure. I ſhall paſs over the numerous Tribe of what we call unlawful Lovers ; who, as they begin with Guilt, muſt always end with Shame and Miſery. But even in the ſacred Marriage-State, how often is it attended with Quarrels, Coldneſs, and Contempt, which frequently lead the way to a final Separation ?

IT may now be expected, that I ſhould inſtruct Men how to avoid theſe Evils, by ſetting them right in their Notions of this Paſſion. But this is no eaſy Task ; as Love is confeſſedly of a very ſubtle, and may perhaps be ſomething of a mixt Nature. However, I think I have given ſome Marks to diſtinguiſh the true *Cupid* from the *Satyr* ; the one the natural Parent of Happineſs, as the other of Miſery. I ſhall endeavour to add two more for our Direction in this intricate Affair ; the one ſhall be taken from the Object on which we place our Affections, the other from the End which we propoſe from them. True Love, as it can never be inſpired by any thing but the Opinion of Real Merit, is ever founded as much or more on the Perfections of the Mind, as the Charms of the Perſon : And as it can never be wholly ſelf-intereſted, the ſecuring the Happineſs of the Perſon beloved is always one of the chief Ends which it purſues. If we take both theſe Marks of this noble Paſſion along with us into the Marriage-State ; I believe we need not fear, but that by mutual Intercourſe of good Offices, it will ſoon be improved into ſuch a generous Friendſhip, as will lay a well-grounded Foundation for a laſting and uninterrupted Happineſs.

N. B. *Mr.* BICKERSTAFF *having now endeavoured to ſecure the Happineſs of the Marriage-State, deſigns very ſhortly to diſcharge the Obligations of a long Date to* Miranda, *and ſeveral other of his female Correſpondents, by making the Increaſe of rich old Batchelors into a ſerious Conſideration ; and therefore if any body can give him any Information, which may tend to the redreſſing of that growing Evil, by what fires it may be convey'd to him without loſs of Time.*

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